

ABSTRACT

A method and system as disclosed for ensuring that information exchanged between parties to a transaction (e.g., a contest, game, auction or financial transaction etc.) on a communications network (e.g., the internet) cannot be improperly tampered with or disclosed prior to a designated time upon which the parties commonly agree. In one embodiment, a mutually acceptable neutral third party is used to assure that such information is secure and disclosed at a proper time. In another embodiment, such a neutral third party is unnecessary in that data exchanged during the transaction is encrypted in a novel technique whereby at least some of the data exchanged between the parties of the transaction is doubly encrypted using an encryption key from two different parties to the transaction.

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